(d) the number of times the item of code of conduct was discussed to make it statutory in the meetings of the political parties convened by Government; and

(e) whether Government have taken note of the judgement of Supreme Court delivered on 25th April, 1994 on confirming powers to Election Commission to enforce the model code of conduct?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) A comprehensive Bill containing proposals on Electoral Reforms including one to give statutory backing to certain provisions of the Model Code of Conduct has been finalised by the Government and is likely to be introduced shortly.

(b) The Model Code of Conduct was formulated in 1968 and is in operation since that time.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) The Model Code of Conduct was among the proposals on electoral reforms considered by the Committee on Electoral Reforms headed by the late Shri Dinesh Goswami, which had representatives of various political parties.

(e) The Supreme Court vide its order dated 25-4-1994 have merely clarified that its earlier interim order dated 4-4 1994 was intended to operate only upto the date of issue of the statutory notification. There is no confirmation by the Supreme Court as to the powers of the Election Commission to enforce the Model Code of Conduct.

Preparation of format issue of the electral reforms

7060. SHRI AHMED MOHMED BHAI PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister has directed all the Ministries to prepare a format for the electoral reforms in the country so that legislation is introduced during the current session of Parliament;

(b) if so, whether all the electoral reforms suggested by the Chief Election Commissioner from time to time have been considered;

(c) whether Government had initiated discussions with all the political parties for getting opinion on the electoral reforms and whether they have also been considered; and

(d) if so, by when the formula of electoral reforms will be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The Government has finalised a package of Electoral Reforms after taking into account the proposals made from time to time by the Chief Election Commissioner and others.

(c) The proposals on Electoral Reforms have been discussed in the meetings of political parties taken by the speaker on 6.5.94, 10.5.94 and 11.5.94. The Government have also taken into account the views of the political parties while finalising the proposals.

(d) The Government hopes to introduce suitable legislation on Electoral Reforms in the current session of Parliament.

Suitable Legislation in Regard to Electoral Reforms

7061. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present position relating to electoral reforms proposed to be made by the Government;

(b) whether Government have taken any decision to bring forward a suitable legislation in this regard during the current session of Parliament; if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government have consulted or propose to consult the Opposition parties before finalising the proposed legislation;

(d) whether Government have consulted the Election Commission regarding proposed electoral reforms if so, what are the views expressed by the Election Commission in this regard;

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(f) whether Government have since taken any decision on the issue of identity cards for voters and

(g) if so, whether Government have issued any guidelines to State Governments and Union territories in this regard; if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The Government has finalised a comprehensive package on Electoral Reforms and hopes to introduce suitable legislation in this regard in the current session of Parliament. The main proposals on Electoral Reforms finalised by the Government are given in the Statement-I which is laid on the Table of the House (*See* below).

(c) Proposals on Electoral Reforms were discussed in meetings of political parties taken by the Speaker of Lok Sabha on 6-5-1994, 10.5.1994 and 11-5-1994.

(d) and (e) The Election Commission has already forwarded its proposals on Electoral Reforms and the main proposals made by the Election Commission are given in the Statement-II which is laid in the Table of the House. (*See* below).

(f) The Government agrees, in principle, with issuance of identity cards to voters.

(g) The Government have not issued any guidelines to State Governments and Union territories in regard to the directions of the Election Commission for issuance of photo identity cards to all electors by 30-11-1994.

Statement-I

Main proposals on Electoral Reforms finanised by the Government

1. Delimitation of constituencies on the basis of 1991 census without affecting the total number of seats allocated to various States on the basis of 1971 census.

2. Amendment to article 324 of the Constitution so as to provide same procedure for removal of Election Commissioners as exists for Chief Election Commissioner and for providing for transaction of business of the Election Commission.

3. Measures for discouraging non-serious candidates.

4. Introduction of photo identity cards in notified constituencies with prior approval of Central Government.

5. A person registered as an elector in any parliamentary constituency to be made eligible for contesting election to Council of State.

6 Statutory backing to the observers appointed by the Election Commission.

7. Strengthening of provisions of section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 relating to registration of political parties and provision for de-registration of political parties.

8. Reduction in the period of election campaign.

9. Restriction on contesting elections from more than one constituency of the same class.

10. Non-countermanding of election in case of death of any candidate.

11. Amplification of the scope of offence' of booth capturing.

12. Limited State funding of elections to candidates of recognised political

parties in the form of free supply of certain number of electoral rolls, certain quantity of petrol/diesel., identity slips to voters etc.,

13. Statutory backing to certain provisions on Model Code of Conduct.

14. Fixing a time limit of six months for holding bye-elections.

Statement-II

The main recommendations made by the Election Commission regarding Electoral Reforms

1. The Election Commission should be a single member body.

2. The Election Commission should have an independent secretariat and the expenditure on the Commission should be "charged" and not "voted".

3. The electoral rolls should be revised intensively every alternate years and the summary revision in other years should continue.

4. Multi-purpose identity cards should be issued to all Indian citizens by the concerned administrative authorities and production of such identity cards may be made obligatory wherever the card holder is required to establish his identity including elections.

5. The District Electoral Officer concerned should be statutorily required to be consulted and empowered to have a say in the police arrangement for elections.

6. The political bigwigs who harbour proclaimed absconders and are seen openly in their company, should be proceeded against. The power to grant parole or remission of sentence of convicted criminals, should be sparingly exercised when the elections are imminent or in progress.

7. The unauthorised possession of ballot boxes or electronic voting machine, and unauthorised printing of ballot papers should be made cognisable offence.

8. Increase in the amount of security deposit should be for all candidates.

9. There should be a minimum of 10 proposers for every candidate drawn from different polling areas.

10. No candidate should be allowed to contest from more than one constituency.

11. The campaign period should be reduced from 20 days to 14 days to bring down the election expenses and the administrative cost on the maintenance of law and order.

12. The Election Commission may be empowered to countermand election due to booth capturing even otherwise than on the report of the Returning Officer.

13. Every registered political party should publish its account annually and these should be audited by agencies specified by the Commission.

14. Non-maintenance of the true account of election expenses or not filing of its true copy within the prescribed time and manner should be punishable with imprisonment and fine and on conviction the candidate should be disqualified for a period of 6 years.

15. The candidate who fails to lodge his election expenses return within the prescribed time, should automatically stand disqualified for a period of five years.

16. Violation of the Model Code of Conduct should result in the election of the candidate(s) in whose favour or with whose consent or connivance, the violation was caused being declared viod and that the candidate(s) should be disqualified for a period of six years.

17. The existing provision in section 29A of the Representation of the

People Act, 1951, relating to registration of political parties, should not be deleted and there should be a specific provision to de-register a party if it violate the undertaking given under the section. The power to de-register should vest in the High Court.

18. The provisions of section 28 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, are violative of and repugnant to the provisions of article 324 of the Constitution. The authority to make rules should therefore, be conferred totally on Election Commission. The Election Commission shall, however, consult the Central Government.

मध्य प्रदेश के छत्तीसगढ़ क्षेत्र में बायो-गैस संयंत्र

7062. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव :** क्या **प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान मध्य प्रदेश के छत्तीसगढ़ क्षेत्र में स्थापित किये गये बायो-गैस संयंत्रों की जिलेवार संख्या और ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(ख) वर्ष 1994 के दौरान छत्तीस गढ़ क्षेत्र के ग्रामीण और आदिवासी क्षेत्रों में बायो-गैस संयंत्र स्थापित करने के संबंध में क्या लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया गया है ;

(ग) उक्त अवधि के दौरान स्थापित किये गये बायो-गैस संयंत्रों की कुल संख्या कितनी है ; और

(घ) सरकार द्वारा बायो-गैस स्थापित करने के लिये कितनी धनराशि आवंटित की गई है ?

गैर-पारंपरिक ऊर्जा स्रोत मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एस० कृष्ण कुमार) : (क) वर्ष 1991-92 से 1993-94 के दौरान मध्य प्रदेश के छत्तीसगढ़ क्षेत्र में परिवार आकार के कुल 6,733 बायो-गैस संयंत्र स्थापित किये गये हैं। राष्ट्रीय बायो-गैस विकास परियोजना के तहत वर्ष 1991-92 से 1993-94 के दौरान जिला-वार और वर्ष-वार स्थापित संयंत्रों की संख्या विवरण में दी गई है। (**नीचे देखिये**)।

(ख) भारत सरकार ने 1994-95 के दौरान मध्य प्रदेश राज्य के लिये अस्थायी तौर पर 15,000 परिवार आकार के बायो-गैस संयंत्रों का लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया है। राष्ट्रीय बायो-गैस संयंत्र परियोजना के तहत परिवार आकार के बायो-गैस सयंत्रों की स्थापना के लिये वास्तविक लक्ष्य का जिलावार आवंटन राज्य सरकार द्वारा निर्धारित किया जाता है।

(ग) वर्ष 1991-92 से 1993-94 की अवधि के दौरान मध्य प्रदेश राज्य ने राष्ट्रीय बायो-गैस विकास परियोजना के तहत परिवार आकार के कुल 27,208 बायो-गैस संयंत्र स्थापित किये गये हैं।

(घ) वर्ष 1991-92 से 1993-94 के वर्षों के दौरान मध्य प्रदेश राज्य को कुल 7.70 करोड़ रुपये की केन्द्रीय सहायता दी गई थी जो निम्न प्रकार से है:-

वर्ष	राशि (करोड़ रुपये)
1991-92	1.53
1992-93	1.70
1993-94	4.47
जोड़ :	7.70